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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,891	09/29/2003	Yuko Motojima	MOTOGIMA, ETAL-1	1990

25889 7590 05/06/2004

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EXAMINER

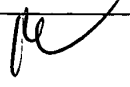
LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,891	Applicant(s) MOTOJIMA ET AL. 	
	Examiner Thanh-Tam T. Le	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/04; 2/17/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Johnson et al. (4,869,677).

Johnson et al., figures 2-5, disclose a connector (16) for connecting a connection object (20), comprising:

- an insulator (46 and 47);
- a conductive contact (18) held by the insulator for electrically connecting the connection object; and
- a conductive plate (42) held by the insulator. The conductive plate having a spring piece facing the conductive contact. The spring piece having plural finger pieces (48) for elastically contacting with the connection object. The finger pieces being arranged to have a slit left between adjacent ones of the finger pieces. The insulator having a beam portion placed in the slit.

Regarding claim 2, the conductive contact is used as a signal contact. The conductive plate being used a ground plate (abstract).

Regarding claim 4, figure 4, the insulator having a holding hole (44). The conductive plate further having a press-fitting portion (53) which is press-fitted into the holding hole.

Regarding claim 5, the finger pieces extending from the press-fitting portion. The slit extending into the press-fitting portion.

Regarding claim 6, the beam portion is located in the holding hole to extend through the slit that is at the press-fitting portion.

Regarding claim 7, the beam portion is formed integral with the insulator.

Regarding claim 8, the spring piece is a branched shape to form the finger pieces.

Regarding claim 9, a connector to be connected to a connection object, comprising:

- an insulator (46 and 47);
- a first contact point (18); and
- a second contact point (42) placed opposite to the first contact point;

wherein the first contact point generating contact force towards the second contact point. The second contact point generating contact force towards the first contact point. The second contact point having branched portions (58). The insulator having a beam portion located between the branched portions.

Regarding claim 10, the first contact point as a signal contact. The second contact point serving as a ground plate.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. (4,869,677) in view of Niwa et al. (5,356,313).

Johnson et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for a metal shell covering the insulator and electrically connect to the conductive plate.

Niwa et al., figure 7, disclose a shield electrical connector having a metal shell (30) contact to a fastener (40) which read as a metal shell covering the insulator and electrically connect to the conductive plate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Johnson et al. to have the metal shell as taught by Niwa et al. for better connection.

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is (703) 306-5711. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2839

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL.
04/27/04


Thanh-Tam Le